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experience, (founded upon a four years' residence in the south part of Europe and in Barbary,) proved fatal; nor could I learn from others, that such an effect was ever produced; the symptoms being readily removed by the remedies, which I shall hereafter describe as being efficacious in the bites or stings of other venomous insects.

"This animal, which, like other spiders, is made up of two divisions united by a slender thread, the one consisting of the head and breast, the other of the belly, rather exceeds an inch in length, and is of an ash colour on its breast, belly, and legs, and underneath is distinguished by blackish rings. It has eight legs united like that of a lobster; and eight eyes, two of which are red, are larger than the others, and are placed in front: four others are placed transversely towards the mouth; the other two are nearer the back. This number of eyes seems necessary in an animal whose existence depends upon its activity and vigilance; and particularly as the eyes are immovable in the socket, and therefore cannot, when required, turn in different directions.

"Its poisonous mechanism consists of two nippers or fangs on the fore part of the head with strong points; toothed like a saw, and terminating in claws like those of a cat. A little below the point of the claw, there is a small hole through which the animal emits the poison; and from this apparatus, its means of attack and defence are derived.

"It is stated to prefer the bare fields for its haunts, where the lands are fallow; but I have seen it near houses, and within the yards, and sometimes even in the adjoining apartments.

"According to Bingley, it lays between seven and eight hundred eggs, which are hatched in the spring; the parents being very short lived, and seldom surviving the winter. Like other spiders, it makes a net or wall round its dwelling, which is generally about four inches deep in the ground, and half an inch wide."

Bertha's Visit to her Uncle in England, 3 vols. London, Murray, 1830.

THIS is not, as might possibly be supposed from the title, an exhibition, real or fictitious, of the odd impressions that might arise in the mind of a stranger to our habits and institutions, on a first introduction to European society. Such works have often been composed by eminent authors, and answered the end of amusing English readers very successfully. Witness the popularity of Montesquieu's Persian Letters, Goldsmith's Citizen of the World, and more recently Espritella's Letters by Doctor Southey, and Hajji Baba in England. The plan of the present work is that of a supposed series of extracts from the journal of a young lady, visiting England to be educated along with her cousins, and writing home to her mother in Brazil, an account of all the remarkable things she saw, read, or learnt during her residence in her uncle's family. As a journal of each day's occupations and acquirements is given separately, the Sundays afford an opportunity for instruction in religious knowledge; as the other six do, for the various branches of physiology, geology, description of places and things, and in short every department of civil information which might be supposed to come within the province of an intelligent and well-taught young lady. This outline is skilfully filled up,

and both in the number of subjects discussed, and the manner of treating of them, the work reflects great credit on the editor. It has likewise the important advantages of being convenient and attractive in form, and very unusually cheap. We select a passage from the journal, when Bertha is about to set out on a journey from England to Ireland, which will enable our readers to judge of the manner in which this very deserving little work is written. We could easily and willingly cover a great many pages of paper, in refutation of the saucy insinuation implied in the "Even in Ireland," of the first paragraph of our extract, but it is more magnanimous to forbear. At least we shall not take up the cudgels till we can experience

— That stern joy which warriors feel,
When they meet foemen worthy of their steel.

"12th.—The corn fields are coming into ear, the hay harvest is going on, new flowers are springing up; and all the walks and gardens, and shrubberies, are in the highest beauty, and yet we are going to leave this dear place! To-morrow we are to quit Fernhurst and all its happiness! But that is a silly feeling, for we all go together, and surely we may make ourselves happy any where, even in Ireland.—A year ago I was just leaving my dear mamma, and the happy home to which I had been so long accustomed, to place myself among strangers;—and now I am going among still greater strangers—among the Irish. But my uncle says they are a warm-hearted, hospitable people, and that the country is so full of objects of interest, that I shall not have to regret the employments of Fernhurst, nor even my favourite gardening experiments.

"I am happy to tell you, that most of these experiments have succeeded very well as yet: particularly one I have been trying on my dahlias, by budding them on the roots. They have already produced some very flourishing plants, and as the bearing buds were employed, they will blossom this year. I must make you acquainted also with a little bower, which we have all assisted in making in a charming spot; it is canopied with woodbine, and lined with moss; and you might say of it—

"Is this Titania's bower, where fairies play
Their antique revels in the glow-worms' light?
Moss and wild thyme are all the weeds which stray
To pave her palace with a green delight.

"As we were taking our last walk late this evening, we saw the goat-sucker, which is nearly allied to the swallow in its form and habits; though generally larger in size. Frederick, who is my chief preceptor in everything relating to the feathered race, tells me, that, except on very dark, gloomy days, these birds are seldom seen till twilight. That is the time the insects come out which form their principal food; and, he says, it is probable that the extreme sensibility of eyes calculated for that period of the day, could not bear the dazzling light of the sun. Their mode of perching is singular, as they place themselves lengthways on a branch, and not in a cross direction like most other birds. The mouth is uncommonly large, fringed with bristles, and moistened by a glutinous fluid, to which the smaller insects adhere; and you may therefore conceive the destructive powers of this bird, for it flies through their swarms with its voracious jaws wide open, darts in every direction at its larger prey, and swallows all, without ever closing its bill. It is in this last circumstance that it chiefly differs from the martin, the swift, and

the rest of the swallow tribes; for they never open their bills, in flying, but to snap at their prey, and they shut them with a sharp peculiar noise, which every one must have observed.

"There is no end to the variety of names which this bird has acquired in different parts of England—goat-suckers—goat-owl—fern-owl—churn-owl—wheel-bird—dor-hawk—night-jar, &c. In most of these names there is some allusion to its peculiar habits, its haunts, its motions, or its noises, except in the first, which is the commonest and the most absurd of all, as if a goat would allow itself to be sucked by a bird! And yet, however ridiculous, my uncle showed Frederick, in Aristotle and Pliny, that the ancients gave it a similar name.

"I understand that it is not a very common bird here; but we saw it for a considerable time rapidly wheeling round and round a large oak tree, and hawking among the branches in pursuit of the fern-chafer, its favourite food. The hawking of this bird reminds me of an amusing passage in the Persian Sketches:—

"At Shiraz, the Elchee (envoy) received a present of a royal falcon. Before going out, we had been amused at seeing our head falconer put upon this bird a pair of leathers, which he fitted to its thighs with as much care as if he had been the tailor of a fashionable horseman. I inquired the reason of so unusual a proceeding. 'You will learn that,' said the consequential master of hawks, 'when you see our sport.'

"The first hare seized by the falcon was very strout, and the ground rough. While the bird kept the claws of one foot fastened in the back of its prey, the other was dragged along the ground till it had an opportunity to lay hold of a tuft of grass, by which it was enabled to stop the course of the hare, whose efforts to escape would have torn the hawk asunder, if it had not been provided with the leather defences which I have mentioned.

"The next time the falcon was flown gave us a proof of that extraordinary courage which its whole appearance, particularly the eye, denoted. It had stopped and quite disabled a hare by the first pounce, when two greyhounds, which had been slipped by mistake, came up, and endeavoured to seize its prize. They were, however, quickly repulsed by the falcon, and with a boldness that excited our admiration and astonishment."

"And now, dear mamma, I must go and pack up my pretty writing-box which my uncle has given me; it holds paper, and pens, and ink, and pencils, my journal and account-book, and every thing one can want; even a nice little red leather case for colours, which Caroline made for me; and yet it is not above two inches deep. It is quite flat—but I can make a desk of the lid, and as it is to lie in the bottom of the carriage, under our feet, I have put it in a green cloth cover. I was afraid it might be troublesome; but my uncle and aunt know how to make every one comfortable without inconvenience to others.

"This is my last line from dear, happy Fernhurst!

13th June, Worcester.

"This morning, at seven o'clock, we set out on our journey. Every thing had been arranged and packed the day before, so there were no delays in the morning; all were punctual, and I assure you, mamma, that I was ready, and my work-box and travelling-book

in my hands, before my uncle gave the first summons for assembling. We have several books in the carriage, but no loose parcels; and within-side it does not look as if it was prepared for a long journey.

"Poor little Grace has been left with the Maudes, in whom my uncle and aunt have the most perfect confidence.

"We have seen the fine old cathedral in this city, and the porcelain manufactory, both of which I had intended to describe to you; but my aunt recommends us to go to bed, as we are to be up very early to-morrow morning, in order that there may be full time for seeing the carpet manufactory at Kidderminster, on our way to Shrewsbury, where we are to sleep. So, good night, though it is scarcely yet dark. What charming long days there are in this country compared with those of Rio.

"14th June, Shrewsbury.

"Sweet is the dubious bound
Of night and morn, when spray and plant are drenched
In dew.

"Everything was in that state when we set out early this morning from Worcester; it reminded me of all my uncle had told me about dew, and I took the opportunity of asking him if dew is formed in the morning—'it continues to form in shaded places, after sunrise,' said he, 'but there is a shorter interval between sun-rise and its ceasing to form, than between its first appearance in the afternoon and sun-set; though Dr. Wells thinks, that if the weather be favourable, more dew forms a little before and a little after sun-rise, in shaded places, than at any other time.'

NOTICES OF BOOKS.

A System of Regional and Surgical Anatomy, Parts I and 2, translated from the French of M. Velpeau, with additions, and Lithographic Plates. By Charles Frederick Staunton, M.D., and George Thomas Hayden, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.—J. M. Leckie, Dublin, 1830.

SINCE the commencement of the present session, no fewer than five translations of medical works have issued from the press of Dublin—Richard's Botany, by Dr. Clinton; Andral's Pathology, by Drs. Townsend and West; an anonymous translation of a German Treatise on "Parasytic Tumours;" and a Translation of the Dublin Pharmacopeia, by Dr. Barker; and now we are presented with the work, of which the title stands at the head of this notice.

From the nature of our Journal, and its devotion to the interests of general, rather than of professional literature, any remarks we might feel inclined to make should necessarily be brief; however, we cannot let this opportunity pass, without expressing our most unqualified approval of the manner in which "Andral's" admirable work has been offered to the English reader. As an instance of pure and elegant diction, it stands unrivalled in medical translation, and reflects no inconsiderable credit on the talented authors, of whose classical and collegiate attainments we are not ignorant.

Of the book before us, we have merely to observe, that works of Regional Anatomy possess the singular advantage of combining practical hints with the dull routine of anatomical detail, so as to create a species of arti-

ficial memory highly beneficial to the student. We sincerely hope that Drs. Staunton and Hayden may reap the profit their labours so well merit, in thus affording to medical students a well translated manual of this kind. The notes and references evince considerable research, and an acquaintance with the productions not only of French, but of German anatomists.

WORKS ON EDUCATION.

Sacred History, in the form of Letters, addressed to the Pupils of the Edinburgh Sessional School. Part I. comprising the period from the Creation to the Death of Moses.—Edinburgh, Wardlaw.

THIS little book is written by Mr. Wood, the amiable and excellent author of the various improvements in education, particularly the education of the poor, so admirably carried into effect under his superintendence in the Edinburgh Sessional School. His account of that School, and of the other Parochial Institutions for Education in Edinburgh, together with Strictures on Education in general, is in high and deserved reputation, as a treatise full of sound sense, as well as of originality and beneficence of mind. The present work is a plain and sensibly written epitome of the Pentateuch, with occasional explanations, serving to remove the difficulties which might arise in the minds of the young, from a perusal of the text. Of course it is not at all intended to supersede the reading of that part of the Bible itself, but merely as an explanatory remembrancer, in the form of letters addressed to young persons, to whom the Sacred Volume is supposed to be already familiar. Among the numerous "Libraries," with which the present age abounds, the author declares his anxiety to supply a Sunday Library for youth, and so far as his little work extends, we can safely congratulate him on having well and fully accomplished his object.

A System of Geography; including also the Elements of Astronomy, &c. By Thomas Ewing, 12th Edition, pp. 308.—Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh; and Simpkin and Marshall, London. *Ewing's New General Atlas*.—Same Publishers.

THE estimation in which Mr. Ewing's talents, as a teacher and compiler of works of instruction, are held, is well attested by the number of editions through which his productions have rapidly run. Geography is a subject upon which, until lately, we had scarcely any respectable elementary work in English. We remember having studied in our youth, a book called Sharman's Geography, the one in general use, we believe, in this country which our subsequent "acquaintance with the world" hath taught us to regard with considerable scorn, mingled with our former horror. We rejoice to see the great improvements recently made in this class of school books.

To the usual information respecting the division of each country, four sections are subjoined, treating of its Historical, Political, Civil, and Natural Geography, and occasional exercises are annexed, containing questions upon the preceding pages. The Atlas is well and clearly executed, and contains the discoveries of the most recent travellers, as Parry, Franklin, Hall, Humboldt, Head, Denham, Clapperton, and Burckhardt.

A Comprehensive Grammar of Modern Geography and History; with Maps, Views, Costumes, &c. pp. 462, by W. Pinnock.—London, Pool and Edwards.

PINNOCK'S improvements on the School Histories, and Pinnock's nine-penny Catechisms, are known to all. We are glad to see this new edition of a Geography with which historical questions on each country are combined. The questions on each chapter of the work are subjoined, in the same manner as in Pinnock's English and other histories. The book contains a vast deal of information well arranged, and is nicely embellished in addition to its maps.

PERIODICAL LITERATURE.

1. *The Oriental Quarterly Review*, No. 1.—London, Hurst and Chance. 1830.

A review entirely devoted to East India affairs, and every body knows that Mr. Buckingham, the editor, can treat of nothing else, is rather much of the *toujours perdrix* for us. Tea we love, and the spicy Curry, (we mean no pun,) but we have an uncle a Director, and like not to hear the Company eternally abused.

The leading article, being a review of seven works on India, most of them older than the hills, and far less green, professes to give a historical portrait of the East India Company.—The religious and moral improvement of the Greeks is treated of in a review of the Rev. G. Waddington's work on the subject. Article VII., on D'Agincourt's *Histoire de l'Art par les Monumens*, depuis sa decadence au quatrième siècle, jusqu'à son renouvellement au seizième, is to us by far the most interesting paper in the number. The want of a philosophical historian of the Fine Arts in England, is justly admitted and deplored. Our desultory efforts to supply from time to time this important desideratum, this hiatus valde defendendus, in the history of our own country, will, we trust, meet with the greater favour and indulgence. The truth is, that to write a suitable history of the Fine Arts during the middle and remoter ages, requires a combination of powers not easily to met with in any one individual. Antiquaries we have, and artists we have, but pure sound taste, united with solid learning and patient research, can alone suffice to form a writer capable of doing any thing like justice to such a subject. The invention of art, and the period of its progress properly called ancient, have been ably and tastefully recorded in the pages of Winkelmann, Caylus, and others.—The productions of modern continental artists have been duly commemorated by Vasari, Tiraboschi, Lanzi, and a host of distinguished names, but it remained for M. D'Agincourt to supply the annals of the intervening and far less inviting period, and six folio volumes enriched with no fewer than three hundred and twenty-five plates, attest at once his taste, his genius, and his devotedness to this, his favourite pursuit, during a long and laborious life, spent in traversing the galleries, the museums, and all the most valuable collections of Europe.

Russian Antiquities, Burckhardt's Travels, and Carne's Recollections of the East, are the principal of the remaining articles not immediately relating to the Indies.